Utilisation of outlay for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan

1812. SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target for all children to be enrolled in schools under the Sarva Shiksha Abhyan (SSA) is, by 2011;

(b) whether several States like west Bengal and Bihar are lagging behind in implementation of the Programme with very low utilisation figures of 1.8 per cent and 3.2 per cent respectively, with both the States having an approved outlay of more than Rs. 850 crores each; and

(c) if so, the details of the corrective steps planned for better utilisation of the approved outlays by the States?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) One of the goals of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is for all children to complete eight years of elementary schooling by 2010. All the State Governments/UTs are implementing the programme earnestly.

The Govt, of India has from time to time drawn the attention of concerned State Governments to improving the pace of implementation of the programme.

Publication and distribution of history books

1813. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NCERT has ordered publication of old History Books to be distributed free to schools;

(b) if so, the details of the books, authors and first editions;

(c) the number of copies of each book; and

(d) the calculated expenditure thereon?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Pre-2000 history textbooks for classes VI-VID and XI—XII were printed by the NCERT and then distributed to organizations like CBSE, KVS, NVS for further distribution in schools.